



## **Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group**

Date: June 9, 2022

Time: 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm (official meeting start at 7PM)

### **Agenda**

- 1. Zoom Protocols, Review of Mission Statement and Group Meeting Protocols**
- 2. Presentation and Q&A from Kristine Shah, Executive Director of Arlington's Council on Aging**
- 3. Introduction to the digitized Historical Arlington Newspapers Collection by Steven Prochet, Robbins Library Local History Librarian**
- 4. Review of April meeting minutes**
- 5. Discussion about DTG's summer plans**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Rebecca Gruber, Elizabeth Dray, Lynette Culverhouse, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Sarah McKinnon, Louise Popkin, Laurie Key, Christina Harrison, Katell Guellec, Kellye Eversole, Kristine Shah (Arlington COA), Beth Melofchik, Steven Prochet (Robbins Library)

- 1. Zoom Protocols, Review of Mission Statement, Group Meeting Protocols, and the Land acknowledgement were read,**
- 2. Presentation and Q&A from Kristine Shah, Executive Director of Arlington's Council on Aging**
  - a. Department**
    - i. Serves everyone 60+**

- ii. Located in the new Arlington Community Center (Senior Ctr)
    - 1. Has programmed and unprogrammed spaces to build community
  - iii. Arlington has 10,000+ residents over 60; COA touches about 6000 people annually, no membership, open to all, walk-ins welcome
    - 1. Depending on funding source, some programs are restricted to Arlington residents
- b. Areas of focus
  - i. Combat social isolation, make connections - Intergenerational programs - book club, international tea, pool and pizza night, digital help
  - ii. Education - travel, art, daily life, legal, financial, tax relief info, SHINE (education about Medicare)
  - iii. Health - nurse (vaccines, blood pressure etc ), fitness classes, podiatry clinic
  - iv. Transportation - most utilized department, two 9 passenger vans with full accessibility,
    - 1. Trips around Arlington. Free if using COA program, \$3/way if medical, shopping etc. There is financial assistance.
    - 2. Outside of Arlington - Medical escort volunteers use personal cars
    - 3. Sanborn Foundation - helps with cancer related appointments - ALL ages. FREE
    - 4. Taxi voucher program - more independence. \$5 flat fee
    - 5. Senior Charlie card sign-up available (instead of going to Park St.) for discounted card
  - v. Wrap around support -
    - 1. 2 FT social workers - support for food, housing etc. access
    - 2. Volunteer assistance for landscaping and small household projects,
    - 3. Support groups
  - vi. Volunteers - 250+, different levels of time commitment
- c. Pandemic
  - i. Busiest time, kept transportation open the whole time, delivered masks, telephone reassurance call program, technology loan library
- d. Age Friendly Community Program since 2018. Developed an Age Friendly Community Action plan, will present to the Select Board June 27 for adoption. Then will share with the community. Will share what we can do to be more age and dementia friendly.
- e. Questions

- i. How is COA financed? - 1/2 of budget comes from Town, Enterprise Account, \$100,000 from State, grants, CDBG grants, small fundraiser through Health and Human services
- ii. Food Security is a big issue. How does COA support? SNAP application, Foodlink, partnerships with food banks, Arlington Eats, Meals on Wheels through Minuteman
- iii. Question about volunteers to do simple house tasks/repairs? - yes, common issue. We try to find someone as quickly as possible.
- iv. Suggestion of creating a volunteer website to check on tasks that need to be done.
- v. How are volunteers checked? Reviewed process for drivers and volunteers - CORI and SORI, interview, driver test
- vi. Support for ELL? - Volunteers on call, for more personal issues. RAPPORT International - for translation services. Russian, Chinese and Spanish. Try to put out things in multiple languages, but it is difficult. Predominantly English speaking staff. Minuteman and Arlington Eats have translators. Would like to do more - need financial funding.
- vii. Are there activities in other languages?
  - 1. Arlington Community Ed offering free ELL classes in the Center.
  - 2. Chinese singing and dancing.
  - 3. Just did a survey and got a list of games/ping pong table to add.
- viii. How to learn more about volunteering? Link to volunteer and contact info is in the newsletter at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/coa>

**3. Introduction to the digitized Historical Arlington Newspapers Collection by Steven Prochet, Robbins Library Local History Librarian.**

- a. How to navigate the website to get to the historical Arlington newspapers.
  - i. Home page, Collections and Services, ELibrary, Newspapers, historical Arlington newspapers
  - ii. Robbins Library Newspaper Tutorial:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2EeLgwMxSM>
- b. Sample searches:
  - i. Arlington Civil Rights Committee, 1960's search done
  - ii. Operation Good Neighbor initiative- search done June 15, 1967 article
    - 1. Community organizing focused on anti-housing discrimination.
- c. Launched a few months ago. Funded by Richard Duffy - unofficial town historian. Major library supporter.
- d. [arlhist@minlib.net](mailto:arlhist@minlib.net) email to the history department

**4. Review of April meeting minutes - not approved will be reviewed by Rebecca, Elizabeth and Kellye and then submitted**

- a. Discussion of Minutes versus Notes**
- 5. Discussion about DTG's summer plans**
  - a. Action items**
    - i. Kellye and Rebecca will try to schedule a meeting with Doug Heim for the purpose of increasing our understanding of DTG authorities, responsibilities, and limitations.**
    - ii. No meetings during the summer**
    - iii. DEI Director Jillian Harvey tentatively scheduled for Sept 8.**
- 6. News/Statements/Opportunities**
  - a. Opportunity to send an email in support to the State committee working to extend free meals in the State's schools.**
  - b. Prince Hall Day event June 24th, time TBD, Town Hall Steps (unconfirmed)**
    - i. Reading of the Charge, divided among readers.**
    - ii. Maybe an opportunity for reflections on current events**
    - iii. June 24, 1796 Prince Hall delivered his Charge in Menotomy**
    - iv. Would love to have a book club of Colonial Era, focused the many diverse actors involved in the events of the time. Pertinent to plans for 250th anniversary celebration of April 19 2025.**
  - c. Safe Communities passed - The State House overrode the Governor's veto**
  - d. Resolution #75 Resolution/Commitment to Increase Diversity in Town Appointments passed overwhelmingly by Town Meeting. It was supported by DTG.**
  - e. DTG Amendment to PCABS article was passed.**
  - f. Mass Municipal DEI Coalition, DEI Guide 2022, co authored by Jillian Harvey is available.**  
**<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/61547>**
  - g. Juneteenth event likely canceled due to RepHAIRations tragedy.**
  - h. Sunday June 12 PRIDE day!**